

(c) to (e). The issues pertaining to the enforcement of the terms is being examined in consultation with Ministry of Law

T.V. and Air Coverage in Himachal Pradesh.

5169. SHRI D.D. KHANORIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the present position of Doordarshan and AIR coverage in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether a large portion of the State is not covered by Doordarshan and AIR, and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for expansion of coverage of the remaining portion of the State?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) *Doordarshan*: The TV service at present, is available to about 58.7% of the population and 37.2% of the area of Himachal Pradesh inclusive of population in fringe areas where elevated antennae and boosters are required for obtaining satisfactory reception.

All India Radio: Radio coverage in medium wave is available to 75% of the population and 45% of the area of the State.

(b) and (c). Schemes for expansion of TV coverage in the uncovered areas include setting up of a high power (1KW) TV transmitter at Shimla (in replacement of the present low power transmitter); a low power transmitter at Sunder Nagar and two very low power transmitters on each at Ajhu Fort & Palampur in the State of Himachal Pradesh. Subject to availability of resources, a high power (10 KW) TV transmitter is envisaged to be set up at Dharamshala in replacement of the present low power transmitter there.

Radio coverage in the State of Himachal Pradesh is proposed to be extended by setting up of six more Radio station, one each at Dharamshala, Kinnaur, Laahul Spiti, Kasauli, Kulu and Hamirpur. Besides, the power of the existing 2.5 KW SW transmitter at Shimla is also scheduled to be upgraded to 50 KW.

With the commissioning of these TV/AIR projects, TV/AIR coverage in the State of Himachal Pradesh would improve considerably.

[Translation]

PCOs in Villages of Bihar

5170. SHRI SURYA NARAIN YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide public telephone facilities in villages of Bihar during the eighth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated, if any, during 1992-93?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Out of a total of 11, 678 Panchayat Villages, 3891 have been provided with Telephone facility upto 29.2.1992. Remaining 7787 Panchayat Villages have been planned to be provided with such facility progressively by 31.3.1995 and the non-Panchayat Villages by 2000 A.D. subject to availability of resources.

The requisite funds for this purpose will be made available as part of eighth plan proposals.